

Adv. 18-12-30

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

As is customary in university colleges, St. Mark's holds no ceremony at the end of the academic year. The following report, however, sums up the work of the college as placed before the college council at its December meeting, by the master (Mr. A. Grenfell Price):—

"In spite of the grave difficulties encountered by the State, the college experienced a most satisfactory year, as numbers increased from 36 to 43, and considerable success was gained in work, games, and other university activities. In March there was a record entry of 21 men, and the council found it necessary to take over the house on Pennington-terrace adjoining the college, which they equipped satisfactorily for the accommodation of a tutor and seven men. The year opened with every available room occupied, and, in spite of the depression, the numbers were maintained.

"The college again had a good year in the University, the outstanding achievement being the award of the Rhodes scholarship to Mr. B. G. Macgrath, who was the fourth St. Mark's student to gain the scholarship in the past three years. Mr. Macgrath's success was particularly gratifying, as he was the first holder of the bursary given by the late Mr. Harold Fisher, and was elected with Mr. Fisher's approval and in his lifetime.

"Although in some faculties of the University the percentage of examination passes was rather low, the college results were above the average. Of 38 candidates 24 passed satisfactorily and obtained sixteen credits, with three first places and a University prize.

"Amongst the best results were B. G. Macgrath, second credit in sixth year medicine; C. N. Thomas, three credits in Greek and Latin, with two first places and the Barr Smith prize; T. S. Dorsch, four credits in Latin and Greek; W. R. Ray, credits in history and oral French; A. P. Guinand, four credits in physics, chemistry, and mathematics; and A. H. Finlayson, two credits and five passes in engineering. Much of the success was due to the work of the college tutors, whose numbers were increased to twelve. By a reciprocal arrangement, two St. Andrew's tutors also assisted the St. Mark's men. In this way the tuition of the two colleges was extended to cover most of the subjects in almost all faculties.

"For the first time bursaries were awarded to students in arts who would later become postulants for Holy Orders. Three men secured those bursaries, and all did so well in their examinations that they qualified to read honors in the following year.

"The college also met with success in athletics. Six Varsity blues were in residence, and no fewer than 16 men represented the University in first teams. Mr. McMichael represented South Australia in tennis, Mr. Bills in hockey, and Mr. McBain gained the amateur heavyweight boxing championship of the State. Members of the college also played a part in the University societies. Sub-editorships of the University magazine, the editorship of the 'Varsity Ragge,' and the presidency of the literary and debating society were held by St. Mark's men.

"During the year the council suffered a severe loss in the death of Professor Sir Archibald Strong. The college held a service in the Cathedral in memory of the professor who had been a warm friend of the University colleges and a generous worker for St. Mark's from its foundation days. Professor R. W. Chapman, C.M.G., consented to fill the vacancy. The college also lost the help of Mr. A. B. Harvey, bursar, from its opening in 1925, as Mr. Harvey left the State. Mr. C. B. Jennings was elected in his place.

"For 1931 the prospects of the college are encouraging. More entries have been received than at the same time last year."

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COMMON STANDARD OF MATRICULATION

Sir W. Mitchell Preparing Commonwealth Scheme

At the request of the universities of Australia, a scheme for a common standard of matriculation throughout the Commonwealth is being drawn up by the Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell).

This announcement was made yesterday by the Chairman of the Public Examinations Board (Professor McKellar Stewart), replying to criticisms of the examination system made at several school speech days recently.

He said the whole question would be fully discussed by the examinations committee early in the new year, and the system to be adopted in the future would depend largely on the outcome of that discussion.

EDUCATIONISTS NOT ONLY TO BLAME
The principal of St. Mark's College (Mr. A. Grenfell Price) said the community owed

Continued

much to the University public examinations, but he agreed with head masters who held so many tests and so many subjects placed a strain on some scholars.

"I wish," said Mr. Price, "that a system could be devised under which certificates would be awarded partly upon examinations and partly upon evidence of good steady work throughout the year.

"Educationists are not altogether to blame for the number of examinations, because it has been found that many students work better under this stimulus, and that parents, business houses, and so on are apt to over-emphasize the importance of such tests."

Mr. Price declined to comment upon the examinations within the University, except to say that, as the scope of knowledge was increasing very rapidly in some subjects, it appeared important for the health of undergraduates that increasing weight should be placed upon practical work and tests throughout the year, in order to prevent augmenting the great strain of the final test.

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ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

In his report the principal (Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth) said—

Inter-Alia

Public Examinations

"The Vice-Chancellor of our University (Sir William Mitchell) has recently been asked by the universities of Australia to draw up a revised scheme for matriculation to suit all the universities. At present our university matriculation is so closely allied to the leaving and intermediate examinations as to be often mistaken for one and the same examination. This is not really satisfactory, as only 28 per cent. of the boys who leave this school proceed to the university. It is, however, difficult to separate these boys in their school work. The aim of course, should be to ensure a liberal education for all.

"The vice-chancellor's scheme will provide for a diminution or lessening of the number of subjects demanded by the university for matriculation, and will attempt to prevent the inevitable cramming which is so hard to avoid in preparing boys for special examinations. This should be to the advantage of both those who are proceeding to the university and those who are not. It will be some time before any finality is reached in this matter, but it will reassure parents to know that the whole question is receiving the earnest attention of the chief educational bodies of the country.

"There is an increasing number of people who feel that the intermediate examination is an unsatisfactory one, and that it would be far better if it were abolished. There are arguments on both sides. The headmasters and headmistresses of the non-departmental schools have met more than once this year, and will meet again early next year, to discuss this question.

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University Examinations

From "E.C.H."—Teachers of French in secondary schools have grounds for complaint about two questions set in the recent intermediate and leaving French examinations. Questions 2b, "Un Etanger a Paris," of the intermediate paper is set as an exercise on page 23 of Spencer's "French Composition from French Models," and question 2 (first part) in the leaving French paper is found on page 58 of the same book. This book of Spencer's has been used for many years by some schools as a suitable text book for the preparation of their students for University French examinations, and their pupils will naturally have a great advantage over candidates not familiar with Spencer. Candidates are justified in expecting that examinations equally fair to all of them shall be set. I would like to know what teachers think of the intermediate arithmetic paper, especially question 3.

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WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

At Urrbrae, Dr. and Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson gave a welcome home to Mr. F. Eardley, Registrar of the University of Adelaide, and Mrs. Eardley, who have just returned from Great Britain and the Continent. Mrs. Richardson had the reception hall, drawing-room, and the dining-room artistically decorated with flowers.

A short musical programme was given before tea, and those who assisted were Miss Melba Ford (vocal), Mr. Harry Hutchins (violinist of the Elder Conservatorium), Mrs. Richardson was at the piano, and also sang herself. Among those present were professors of the Adelaide University and their wives, professors, lecturers, and staff of the Waite Institute, Urrbrae, also a number of students.

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Mr. R. C. L. Bosworth, who had the honor of Degree of Bachelor of Science conferred upon him at the University commemoration this month, has been granted a David Murray Scholarship for Research by the University of Adelaide.

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Professor R. W. Chapman, who is 64 to-day, was born at Stony Stratford (England), and came to Australia at the age of ten. Appointed lecturer on mathematics and physics at the University of Adelaide when 23, he now occupies the Chair of Engineering there. In the 1927 King's birthday honors, Professor Chapman had conferred upon him a C.M.G.

Reg. 31-12-30

Professor A. Watson (formerly of Adelaide University) has written to the Director of the Botanic Garden (Mr. Bailey) to say that he will arrive in Adelaide in February. He is staying with his sister, Mrs. B. Johnson, at Moss Vale, Queensland.

Reg. 26-12-30

CUTTING COSTS IN GOVT. DEPARTMENTS

Prominent Citizens Named For Special Enquiry

TO START AT ONCE

The names of several prominent citizens have been announced by the Premier (Mr. Hill) as the men chosen to make an enquiry, which is to begin immediately, into costs of administration of several big Government departments.

These experts, who will assist the Finance Advisory Committee, are:—

Education—Professor J. McKellar Stewart, Mr. A. Wallace Sandford, and the Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey).

Irrigation and Soldier Settlement—Messrs. Lance Lewis, S. Crawford, and the Public Accountant (Mr. O. Gawler).

The enquiry into the Department of Agriculture has not yet been finally arranged, but it is understood that Messrs. F. Coleman, A. L. McEwin, the Director of the Waite Institute for Agricultural Research (Dr. A. E. V. Richardson), and one other will assist the Finance Committee.

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WOOL PRODUCTION

RESEARCH WORK IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. Rivett's Task

"When it came to wool production, the Imperial Wool Research Conference agreed that only in the great producing parts of the Empire, particularly Australia and South Africa, could the required investigations be suitably conducted," said the deputy chairman and chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (Dr. A. C. D. Rivett), who was a passenger on the Moldavia which berthed at Outer Harbor on Saturday morning.

Dr. Rivett left nine months ago to inspect scientific research institutions in Great Britain, and to compare the work being done by them with the investigations being carried out in Australia. While abroad he attended the Imperial Wool Research Conference, which was held at London, Leeds, Bradford, and Edinburgh in September. Plans were discussed for closer relations between the various organizations conducting research work in wool in Great Britain, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. The main objects of the conference were to reduce prime costs and improve products.

Sir Charles Martin

"Great interest was shown by the

conference in the work of the Animal Nutrition Laboratory of the University of Adelaide and the Commonwealth Council," said Dr. Rivett. "His work is gaining a high reputation abroad. One heard nothing but praise for the way in which the late Professor Bradford Robertson had planned and inaugurated his huge programme, and everywhere his untimely death was lamented as a tragic blow to Empire scientific work. It was, I think, a realization of the immense possibilities opened up by Dr. Robertson that induced Sir Charles Martin, at a time when he might justifiably have retired, to agree to the council's urgent invitation to come to Adelaide and take charge of the division of animal nutrition. Sir Charles is expected to arrive here early in March.

Waite Research Institute

"The Waite Institute has a great and rapidly growing reputation in Great Britain," he continued. "It is regarded as a first-class Dominion counterpart of the famous Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station established nearly 100 years ago in Hertfordshire, England. One of the leading officers of the Empire Marketing Board told me that the reports of the Director of the Waite Institute (Professor A. E. V. Richardson) are regarded as models which other workers and institutions might well strive to emulate."

Dr. Rivett said that the development of applied scientific research in Great Britain since the War had been far-reaching and continuous. Well-equipped laboratories had been established throughout the country, and more than a score of trade research associations, set up some years ago with Government assistance, and controlled by associated firms in particular industries, had nearly all proved successful. They carried out research work in wool, electricity, cast-iron, non-ferrous metals, rubber, and scientific instruments, and had achieved splendid results in each of these departments. Most, though not all, of these bodies were willing to admit Dominion firms as members, and the possibility of valuable developmental work through these institutions was increasing every year. Australia would be well advised to take full advantage of them.

Oil from Coal

"I am specially interested in the problem of oil production from coal," said Dr. Rivett in conclusion, "and I will later present a short report on the subject. There is not the slightest doubt that the processes now being developed are of immense future interest to Australia, but it would be a difficult matter to determine just when it would be worth while to encourage its application here. It is, perhaps, more a matter of economics and national policy than a technical difficulty."

Dr. Rivett is accompanied by his wife and two children. They were met at Outer Harbor by the acting chief of the division of animal nutrition of the council (Mr. H. R. Marston), the Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute (Professor A. E. V. Richardson) and Mrs. Richardson, the chief of the division of soils (Professor A. J. Prescott), of the Waite Institute, and Mr. Lines, an officer of Mr. Marston's department.

Adv. 7-1-31

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

Mr. Black Returns From Abroad

Helpful information with regard to Australian botanical nomenclature is likely to be obtained as the outcome of the International Botanical Congress held at Cambridge in August.

This view was expressed by Mr. J. M. Black, of North Adelaide, who returned by the Eridan, with his wife, after 11 months abroad. The congress was attended by about 1,500 delegates from all parts of the world.

One of the principal subjects considered was botanical nomenclature. The Australian committee on nomenclature, of which Mr. Black was secretary, had prepared a list of generic names which it wished to be conserved in opposition to other names which were sometimes used. He thought the Australian list would be adopted, and that would lead to simplification concerning the scientific names of Australian plants.

Mr. Black represented the University of Adelaide, the Australian committee on nomenclature, and the Melbourne Botanical Gardens.